

January 8, 1976

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, do you have a motion on the desk?
Mr. Clerk, do you have a motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do on Select File.

PRESIDENT: We'll go to Select File now.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp has a motion on LB 204, which is on E & R for Engrossment, which was bracketed last session. The motion is to return LB 204 to Select File for specific amendment. Signed, Senator DeCamp. (Read amendment found on page 129 in the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Consistent with the policy that we established last session, Senator DeCamp, then would you address yourself to the substantive aspect of your amendment, as well as the motion to return, so that we only have one debate.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The bill was moving along. It appeared it could have passed last year, however, we had indications from the Governor that he would veto the bill. The bill, of course, is what's known as the liquor bill involving price, minimum price. So I bracketed the bill with the permission of the Legislature with the idea in mind that if a compromise or a reasonable solution was possible that possibly we could complete it this session of the Legislature. OK, I believe that solution has been reached. I believe a reasonable compromise has been reached. To support that compromise there has been handed out to you, at this very moment, a letter from the Governor of the State of Nebraska in which he recites "Yes, he would veto the bill in its present form". But he would agree ... he would agree to sign a bill which prevented grocery stores, this kind of people, from actually selling liquor at below the wholesale cost. In other words, using them purely as loss leaders to draw people into the stores by giving them, in effect, free booze. He would sign such a bill. That is what the amendment does. It eliminates any minimum markups and merely says "You can't sell alcoholic beverages at below the wholesale cost", in effect.

So I believe we've now reached the compromise. I doubt there's any opposition. I would hope you would vote to return the bill to put the amendment on, and then send it on to Final Reading.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall LB 204 be returned for a specific amendment. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The bill is returned. Senator DeCamp. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, the bill is now returned. I've briefly explained the amendment. I want to do one additional thing. I want to say I have a conflict of interest on this bill. I don't want to make it any secret. The conflict is that the bill works against me. In the original form it probably would have worked for me. As